

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 13 to 15 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image capture device comprising:
  - an image capture unit adapted to capture an image;
  - a specific information generation unit adapted to generate specific information ~~for image data of relating to~~ the captured image simultaneously with a process for recording image data corresponding to the captured image on a recording medium;
  - a recording unit adapted to record the image data and the specific information on ~~a recording medium, the image data and the specific information are recorded on different areas of~~ the recording medium;
  - a reproducing unit adapted to reproduce the image data and the specific information from ~~the different areas of~~ the recording medium;
  - an embedding unit adapted to embed the specific information reproduced from the recording medium into the image data reproduced from the recording medium using a digital watermarking technique; and
  - a control unit adapted to provide the specific information ~~reproduced from the recording medium~~ and the image data reproduced from the recording medium to the embedding unit if a first process is selected by a user, and avoid providing the specific information reproduced from the recording medium ~~and the image data reproduced from the recording medium~~ to the embedding unit if a second process is selected by the user.

2. (Previously Presented) An image capture device according to claim 1, further comprising a decompressing unit adapted to decompress the image data reproduced from the recording medium,

wherein the embedding unit is adapted to embed the specific information into the image data decompressed by the decompressing unit.

3. to 4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method ~~used~~ for use in an image capture device, the method comprising the steps of:

capturing an image;

generating specific information ~~for image data of~~ relating to the captured image simultaneously with a process for recording image data corresponding to the captured image on a recording medium;

recording the image data and the specific information on ~~a recording medium, the image data and the specific information are recorded on different areas of the~~ recording medium;

reproducing the image data and the specific information from ~~the different areas the~~ recording medium;

embedding the specific information reproduced from the recording medium into the image data reproduced from the recording medium using a digital watermarking technique;

if a first process is selected by a user, providing the specific information ~~reproduced from the recording medium~~ and the image data reproduced from the recording

medium to an ~~embedding unit which performs the embedding step~~; and

if a second process is selected by the user, avoiding providing the specific information reproduced from the recording medium ~~and the image data from the recording medium~~ to the embedding ~~unit~~ step.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, further comprising a decompressing step of decompressing the image data reproduced from the recording medium,

wherein the embedding step embeds the specific information into the image data decompressed in the decompressing step.

7. to 8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing a program used for use in an image capture device, the program is capable of performing the steps of:

capturing an image;

generating specific information for image data of relating to the captured image simultaneously with a process for recording image data corresponding to the captured image on a recording medium;

recording the image data and the specific information on a ~~recording medium, the image data and the specific information are recorded on different areas of the~~ recording medium;

reproducing the image data and the specific information from the ~~different areas of the recording medium~~;

embedding the specific information reproduced from the recording medium into the image data reproduced from the recording medium using a digital watermarking technique;

if a first process is selected by a user, providing the specific information reproduced from the recording medium and the image data reproduced from the recording medium to an embedding unit which performs the embedding step; and

if a second process is selected by the user, avoiding providing the specific information reproduced from the recording medium and the image data reproduced from the recording medium to the embedding unit step.

10. (Currently Amended) A storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the program is capable of performing a decompressing step of decompressing the image data reproduced from the recording medium, and

wherein the embedding step embeds the specific information into the image data decompressed in the decompressing step.

11. to 15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) An image capture device according to claim 1, further comprising an outputting unit adapted to output the image data to an external destination,

wherein if the first process is selected by a user, the outputting unit outputs the image data including the specific information to the external destination, and

if the second process is selected by the user, the outputting unit outputs the

image data excluding the specific information to the external destination.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, further comprising an outputting step of outputting the image data to an external destination, wherein if the first process is selected by a user, the outputting step outputs the image data including the specific information to the external destination, and if the second process is selected by the user, the outputting step outputs the image data excluding the specific information to the external destination.

18. (Currently Amended) A storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the program is capable of performing an outputting step of outputting the image data to an external destination, and wherein if the first process is selected by a user, the outputting step outputs the image data including the specific information to the external destination, and if the second process is selected by the user, the outputting step outputs the image data excluding the specific information to the external destination.

19. to 21. (Canceled)